Mental Retardation

†2765. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the disease of mental retardation (Dowsis Syndrome) is found in many children by birth;

(b) if so, whether Government have found out any medicine for treatment of the said disease;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any research is being carried out regarding medicine for this disease; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Mental retardation resulting from Down's Syndrome is found since birth in some children. As of now, there is no medical or surgical treatment to cure Down's Syndrome as it is a genetic disorder. However, early developmental intervention for babies having Down's Syndrome is considered to be beneficial to improve their functioning. Some medicines are useful in treatment of associated physical complication like epilepsy, hypothyroidism, heart diseases, etc.

(e) and (f) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has carried out multicentric studies on genetic causes of mental retardation in India and genetic counseling and antenatal diagnosis of common genetic disorders. Some research institutions in USA are carrying out research on treatment on Down's Syndrome.

Quality Standards for Bottled Water

2766. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the final norms for pesticide residue in packaged drinking water were passed recently;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.